

1. A method, performed by a first network device, for use in configuring a second network device, comprising:

receiving a request for configuration information from the second network device; and

5 determining whether to respond to the request based on at least one of (i) lapse of a predetermined time period, and (ii) whether another device on the network issues a response to the request.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined time period is unique to the first network device relative to other devices on the network.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein if another device on the network issues a response, the first network device does not issue a response.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein if another device on the network issues a response, the first network device:

20 receives the response from the other device;  
compares information in the response to stored configuration information; and

determines whether to reconfigure itself based on the comparison.

5        5. The method of claim 4, wherein, if the information in the response does not match the stored configuration information, the first network device reconfigures itself.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a combined router solicitation and an address mask request.

10        7. The method of claim 1, wherein a response to the request comprises a combined router advertisement and an address mask reply.

15        8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first network device comprises one of a peer of the second network device and a router to an external network.

20        9. A system comprising:  
a first network device which receives a request for configuration information;  
a second network device; and  
a third network device which issues the request;

wherein the first network device is configured to respond to the request within a first time period and the second network device is configured to respond to the request within a second time period if the first network device does not respond to the request within the first time period.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the second network receives a response to the request issued by the first network device, compares information in the response to stored configuration information, and determines whether to reconfigure itself based on the comparison.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein, if the information in the response does not match the stored configuration information, the second network device reconfigures itself.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the request comprises a combined router solicitation and an address mask request.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein a response to the request comprises a combined router advertisement and an address mask reply.

14. An article comprising a machine-readable storage medium which stores instructions that are executed by a first network device to configure a second network device, the instructions causing the first network device to:

5 receive a request for configuration information from the second network device; and

determine whether to respond to the request based on at least one of (i) lapse of a predetermined time period, and (ii) whether another device on the network issues a response to the request.

15. The article of claim 14, wherein the predetermined time period is unique to the first network device relative to other devices on the network.

16. The article of claim 14, wherein if another device on the network issues a response, the first network device does not issue a response.

20 17. The article of claim 16, wherein if another device on the network issues a response, the first network device:

receives the response from the other device;

compares information in the response to stored configuration information; and

determines whether to reconfigure itself based on the comparison.

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18. The article of claim 17, wherein, if the information in the response does not match the stored configuration information, the first network device reconfigures itself.

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19. The article of claim 14, wherein the request comprises a combined router solicitation and an address mask request.

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20. The article of claim 14, wherein a response to the request comprises a combined router advertisement and an address mask reply.

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21. The article of claim 14, wherein the first network device comprises one of a peer of the second network device and a router to an external network.

22. A first network device for use in configuring a second network device, the first network device comprising:

memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

receive a request for configuration information from  
the second network device; and

5 determine whether to respond to the request based on  
at least one of (i) lapse of a predetermined time period,  
and (ii) whether another device on the network issues a  
response to the request.

10 23. The first network device of claim 22, wherein the  
predetermined time period is unique to the first network  
device relative to other devices on the network.

15 24. The first network device of claim 22, wherein if  
another device on the network issues a response, the first  
network device does not issue a response.

20 25. The first network device of claim 24, wherein if  
another device on the network issues a response, the first  
network device:

receives the response from the other device;

compares information in the response to stored  
configuration information; and

determines whether to reconfigure itself based on the comparison.

26. The first network device of claim 25, wherein, if  
5 the information in the response does not match the stored  
configuration information, the first network device  
reconfigures itself.

27. The first network device of claim 22, wherein the  
10 request comprises a combined router solicitation and an  
address mask request.

28. The first network device of claim 22, wherein a  
response to the request comprises a combined router  
15 advertisement and an address mask reply.

29. The first network device of claim 22, wherein the  
first network device comprises one of a peer of the second  
network device and a router to an external network.